

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 IO-10

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIEP-01 XMB-02 OPIC-03 /139 W

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R 161726Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9449

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 06190

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, GW, LA

SUBJECT: LAOS CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING

REF: STATE 074216

1. EMBOFFS MET WITH BARTHELT AND KILLINGER OF
MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION TO URGE GERMAN
SUPPORT FOR FORMATION OF LAOS CONSULTATIVE GROUP.
THEY REPORTED THAT DR. GUENTHER SCHULZ, DIRECTOR
OF MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS IN ECONOMIC
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COOPERATION MINISTRY, WILL ATTEND THE AD HOC MEETING,

BUT WILL NOT SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A CONSULTATIVE GROUP. WHILE FRG APPRECIATES VALUE OF CONSULTATIVE GROUPS AS MECHANISM FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, IT REMAINS MOST HESITANT TO PARTICIPATE IN DONOR FORA WHICH WOULD HAVE BROADER POLITICAL GOALS CONCERNING FUTURE OF INDO-CHINA.

2. IN A FRANK AND OPEN DISCUSSION OF GERMAN VIEWS ON DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO LAOS IN LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA, BARTHELT AND KILLINGER HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE THAT THE COALITION GOVERNMENT IN VIENTIANE COULD SURVIVE IN THE FACE OF COMMUNIST GAINS IN OTHER PARTS OF SOUTH EAST ASIA. WITH A SHIFT IN POWER TO THE PATHET LAO, THE QUESTION OF FORMING A CONSULTATIVE GROUP WOULD BECOME ACADEMIC SINCE THE PATHET LAO IS OPPOSED TO THIS PROPOSAL.

3. KILLINGER, WHO HAD RECENTLY VISITED LAOS, WAS DISCOURAGED BY THE SLOW PROGRESS OF FRG-FINANCED PROJECTS. THE COALITION GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN LESS EFFECTIVE THAN THE FRG HAD ANTICIPATED, AND CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES HAVE OFTEN HAD A PARALYZING EFFECT ON MANAGEMENT OF PARTICULAR PROJECTS. FRG IS THEREFORE WINDING DOWN ITS PROJECT ASSISTANCE. WHILE IT IS PREPARED TO CONTINUE ITS BILATERAL AID PROGRAM UNDER A COMMUNIST REGIME, THE LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE WILL BE QUITE SMALL, PROBABLY AROUND 8 MILLION DM PER YEAR (DOWN FROM 20 MILLION DM IN 1973, 15 IN 1974, AND 10 IN 1975).
HILLENBRAND

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